



MARAD Update



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9/11 Heroes

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U.S. Secretary of Transportation Norman Y. Mineta presenting specially authorized medals from the U.S. Department of Transportation to New York and New Jersey maritime industry members. Joining the Secretary on stage are (front row, left to right) RADM Craig E. Bone, USCG, Director of Port Security, Maritime Safety, Security, and Environmental Protection Directorate; and VADM Vivien S. Crea, USCG, Commander, Atlantic Area and U.S. Maritime Defense Zone, Atlantic. Also shown are (back row, left to right) Capt. John Katan, Marine Division, New York City Fire Department; and Deputy Chief John Bley, Division 1, New York City Fire Department.

U.S. Secretary of Transportation Norman Y. Mineta awarded specially authorized medals from the U.S. Department of Transportation to more than 700 members of the New York and New Jersey maritime industry who risked their lives to evacuate more than 500,000 persons from Lower Manhattan on September 11, 2001. Secretary Mineta was the keynote speaker at a ceremony honoring the maritime industry for saving lives on 9/11, and for establishing a supply lifeline bringing equipment and emergency personnel to Ground Zero in the days following the attack on the World Trade Center. This waterborne evacuation of Lower Manhattan was the largest rescue operation of its kind in our nation's history. With bridges and tunnels closed and subway lines shut down, the waterways provided the only escape route for thousands of citizens in distress.

More than 500 industry leaders attended this historic recognition ceremony held at the World Financial Center in Lower Manhattan. The ceremony was a fitting tribute to everyday heroes who responded within minutes to the Captain of the Port's call for "all available boats" on 9/11. The Maritime Administration's North Atlantic Region Director Bob McKeon and Maritime Program Specialist Bill McDonald were members of the organizing committee and participated in the event.